

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 2-8 to read as follows:

In Fig. 3, sample press 10 is shown in the un-clamped position and in the clamped position, the clamped position being shown in phantom. In the clamped position as shown in phantom in Fig. 3, press 36 is brought into close proximity to base plate 12 so as to press a portion P of a sample of compounded rubber designated by the letter R. In this position, pin 32, exerts a locking force on lever arm 24 and press 36 by bearing down upon the lower surface of dogbone channel ~~34~~ 30, in lock plate 28, so as to put pressure on bearing 34, which communicates with lever arm 24.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 9-14 to read as follows:

In the unclamped position of Fig. 3, handle 22 is pulled in the direction of arrow B, causing pin 32 to move within dogbone channel ~~34~~ 30 to bear upon the upper surface thereof, releasing some of the locking force, and raise lever arm 24 and press 36, as shown. It should be mentioned that it is not necessary that the press employed in this step be a locking press; however, the locking press taught herein is useful because it may also be employed in cutting the sample of compounded rubber at the pressed portion thereof.